Numb. 101

THE REHEARSAL.

1. No *Credit* to be Given to *Whigg-Stories*.
2. The manner of the *Grave* among the *Whiggs* and *Diſſenters* their *Cenſuring*, and at the ſame time *Encouraging* the *Scandlous Papers* wrote on their Side.
3. A *Trial* offer'd, as to the *Truth* of *Stories* told by the *Whiggs* and *Diſſenters*.
4. Eſpecially when told with moſt *Aſſurance*. Exemplify'd in *De Foe* and his *Weather Cock*.

SATURDAY, *May* 4th. 1706.

(1.) *Rehearſal.* I Hope that by my laſt I have gain'd this from all Indifferent Men, That no Credit is to be Given to the Malicious *Lyes* and *Stories* of *Pens* who are *Liſted* in the ſervice of *Falſhood* and *Slander*; who Pick up *Tales* at any Rate, *Fix* them on whom they Pleaſe, and vent them with full *Aſſurance*, Regardleſs of *Truth*, or Common *Honeſty!*

(2.) *Country-man.* You are perfectly ſecure, *Maſter*, for you have *Detected* them in ſo many things, That now their *Tongues* are no *Slander*! And their *Fury* and *Rage* and *Billingſgate* againſt you has Render'd them *Ridiculous* to all Men of *Senſe*, and *Indefenſible* even by their own *Party*; the *Soberer* ſort among whom call them *Scoundrels* and *Naſty* fellows. Which I have often heard, even in their *Coffee-Houſes*. And they think they Gain the *Reputation* of *Sober* and *Indifferent* Men, by ſo Juſtly *Cenſuring* theſe *Scurrilous Writers* on their own Side.

Rehearſ. And yet, *Country-man*, they Read and Encourage theſe *Papers*; and are Pleas'd with the *Slander* they Throw upon the *Church*, the *Clergy*, or any that take their Part.

Country-m. I profeſs, *Maſter*, you have Hit it. For I have ſeen ſome of theſe Grave *Donns*, after calling the *Obſervator* a *Scurrilous* and *Naſty* Paper, make up their *Mouth* and ſay, But really there is *Wit* in ſuch a thing! That was well *Obſerv'd!* And the *Rogue* hits now and then upon *Shrew'd* Points! Tis a Pity he did not *Write* more *Cleanly*! And then they *Simper* with one *ſide* of their *Mouth*, and then with the *other!*

Rehearſ. You ſee *Country-man*, That notwithſtanding all their *Mealy Modeſty*, theſe *Dirty Papers* go on, and are Encourag'd as much as ever. *Actions* diſcover men better than *Words*. If the *Heads* of thoſe who call themſelves the *Sober* Party, were Really *Offended*, and thought their *Cauſe* ſuffer'd by the *Vileneſs* of theſe *Papers*, they cou'd ſoon *Suppreſs* them, by not *Supporting* them. Then they wou'd *Die* of themſelves.

(3.) But it is Apparent, that they Diſdain not to ſtoop to the Groſſeſt *Lies* and *Slander*, for ſupporting their *Good Cauſe*! I have made it my Obſervation, *Country-Man*, of a Long time, and I will Give it you, to make a Tryal of it, That whatever *Stories* come from theſe Men, *Reflecting* upon the *Church* or *Clergy*, or tending to Promote their *Cauſe*, you may take it for Granted, at the firſt hearing, and before you can Examine into it, to be all *Falſe* from Top to Bottom. This *Trial* I have made and I profeſs to you *Country-Man*, I have not found my ſelf Miſtaken *Once* in *Twenty* times.

Country-m. I thank you for this Note, *Maſter*. I'm Reſolv'd to get a *Pocket-Book*, and I'll *Mark* their *Stories*, and *Examin* them. I ſhall find them out.

(4.) But *Maſter*, ſome things they tell with ſuch *Aſſurance*, and give ſuch *Circumſtances*, that one cannot believe it to be in the Power of any Body to *Impoſe* upon the *World* at that Rate, and where they may be ſo Eaſily *Detected*!

Rehearſ. Then you are to *Suſpect* them moſt *Country-Man*. This they do on Purpoſe, that ſuch things may Paſs without *Examining*, and be taken for *Granted!* Becauſe, as they Juſtly Suppoſe, there is no other *Sett* of *Men* upon the *Face* of the *Earth*, who are Acquainted with ſuch *Aſſurance* in *Lying*, and ſtand it out with ſuch *Hardineſs* as *Themſelves*! What think you of *De Foe*'s ſtory about the *Weather-Cock* at *Oxford*?

Country-m. Indeed, *Maſter*, I was *Caught* there. I did verily *Believe* it. For who cou'd Imagin that any one wou'd tell a *Lye* in a thing of ſuch a *Publick* and *Notorious* Nature, and which cou'd be ſo eaſily *Detected*? A *Weather-Cock* upon a *College*, which every body cou'd *See!* And the *College* Nam'd, *Merton-College*! Then the Thing it ſelf ſo very *Foul*, to ſet up the *Queen*'s *Arms* upon a *Weather-Cock*, with her *Motto* of *Semper Eadem* under it; Then to apply it, as *De Foe* has done, to ſignify her *Majeſty's* Conſtancy to her *Word* of ſupporting the *Church*, to be as *Fickle* as a *Weather-Cock*; And, as ſuch, to lay it upon the *Univerſity!* Dear *Maſter*, I was *Frighted* out of my Wits! I cou'd not but Believe the Matter of *Fact* to be *True*. For I thought the *Devil* himſelf wou'd not have had the *Impudence*, to tell ſuch a *Story*, if there was nothing in it! And then I thought there cou'd be Nothing leſs than a *Viſitation* as they call it (isn't that the *Plague*, Maſter?) upon the *Univerſity*, at leaſt upon

upon that *College*, and upon all the Reſt for Suffering it! And that the *Queen*'s Diſpleaſure cou'd never be Remov'd from that *Univerſity*, who *Durſt* Preſume to Treat her *Majeſty* in that *Ignominious* manner! And that this muſt *Alienate* her *Majeſty*, in a great Meaſure, from the *Clergy* in General, when ſo Conſiderable a *Body* of them, cou'd not be ſuppos'd to have offer'd ſuch an *Open* and *outragious AFFRONT* to her *Majeſty*, unleſs they had known the Minds of *Others* as well as of *Themſelves*.

But whatever Effect it had with her *Majeſty*, it had a *Terrible* one all over the *Country*! It open'd the *Mouths* of the *Country-People* at a ſtrange Rate! That they cou'd not look upon a *Clergy-Man* but with *Indignation*! And many of 'em were *Inſulted* on the *High-Way* as they *Travell'd* the *Road*, and the *People* were Diſpos'd even to a *Maſſacre* of them, as *De Foe* had often *Prompted* them, which you have ſhew'd out of his *Reviews*. And this *Story* of the *Weather-Cock* ſet 'em all on *Fire*, that I think it a Great *Mercy* ſome of the *Clergy* had not their *Brains* beat out! But it ſufficiently *Alienated* the *Hearts* of the *People* from the *Church* and *Clergy*.

Rehearſ. No doubt that was the *Intention* of it. For which Reaſon I thought it worth my while to Diſprove that loud *Slander*, and to *Undeceive* as many of the *Country-People* as this *Paper* cou'd Reach.

But when it was fully and Clearly ſhew'd, That the whole *Story* was *Falſe*, and that no ſuch *Weather-Cock* was ſet up at *Merton-College*. So far was Mr. *De Foe* from *Retracting* or *Confeſſing* his *Crime*, that he ſtill Purſu'd it; by another *Lie*, That tho' there was no ſuch *Weather-Cock* ſet up, yet that it was *Made* to be ſet up; But that upon ſecond thoughts, and to avoid the *Danger* might Enſue, it was not ſet up. This left the *Odium* upon them ſtill. And this was *Believ'd*. And was Harder to be *Diſprov'd*. But this alſo was *Diſprov'd* and inſerted into my *Rehearſal* of *June* 16th 1705. the *Certificats* of the *Work-Men* who *Painted* that *Weather-Cock*, That there was no *Queens Arms* upon it, but only the *Arms* of the *Foundor* of that *College*, as it us'd to be Formerly. And that no *Directions* were given them to put the *Queens* or any other *Arms* upon it.

Country-m. I ſuppoſe after this Mr. *De Foe* ſaid no more of the *Weather-Cock*.

Rehearſ. He ſaid nothing againſt theſe manifeſt *Diſproofs* of his Wicked *Allegations*. But this ſtopt not his *Mouth*. He Inſiſted upon it over and over again, as if no *Diſproof* had ever been made! This I bore with for a good while, thinking it wou'd only make him *Ridiculous*, and expoſe the *Spirit* of the *Party* Proof againſt all *Conviction*! But when I found that by this meer *Dint* of *Diligence* the *Story* began to Revive again, and many had not ſeen, or had forgot the *Diſproof* of it, I was Forc'd to Interrupt a *Serious* Subject I was then upon, and beſtow an *Advertiſement* upon Mr. *De Foe* (which the *Obſervator*) in mine of *Aug.* 18. 1705. Minding him of the *Diſproofs* of that *Story* I had before *Printed*. But he went on with the ſame *Hardineſs* as before, and Repeated his *Weather-Cock* again with full *Aſſurance*! This indeed *Aſtoniſh'd* me, having never before met with the Like *Obſtinacy* in downright *Lying*, and ſo Palpably *Detected*! But I try'd again, and gave him a ſharper *Correction* in another *Advertiſement* to mine of *Septemb.* 8. 1705. Which taking no Effect, I minded him of it again, in mine of *Sept.* 15. 1705. This forc'd him to take notice of theſe *Advertiſments*. But to what purpoſe? To *Confeſs* or *Acknowlege* his *Error*? Or to ſay any thing to ſupport what he Publiſh'd in *Print*, and Invalidate the *Diſproofs* I had brought againſt it? No! None of theſe things! But to Repeat his Baſſi'd *Lie* over again! For which I *Expos'd* him again, in mine of *Sept.* 29. 1705. This Rous'd his *Spirit*. And in his of *Oct.* 9. 1705. p. 375. He Reſolves to ſtand to it, and ſays, *That his* (the Rehearſals) *Certificats from Painters and Work-Men are Inſignificant. The Story Stands Confirm'd, as far as I need deſire it. And I'll at any time produce him my Authority. That the Motto was Deſign'd, Propos'd, and the Pattern ſeen, I have a Great Reaſon to believe can be Prov'd.*

This is a *Hero* for *Lying*! That even when overcome by *Truth*,

So Unwilling, ſo Threatning forward he gives Back.

But will he tell us, why the *Painters* and *Work-Mens CERTIFICATS* are *Inſignificant*? He offers nothing to *Invalidate* their *Teſtimony*. And was it not the moſt proper *Proof* that cou'd be had? For if ſuch things were not *Made*, they cou'd not be *ſet up*. And if they were only *Deſign'd* or *Propos'd* to be *ſet up*, then they were not *ſet up*. And his *Aſſertion* was, That they were *ſet up*. And was not this a *Lie*, by his own *Confeſſion*? Where then is his *Repentance* and *Satisfaction* in *Acknowledging* his *Miſtake*! And what *Conſultation* cou'd there be about putting the *Queens Motto* to the *Arms* of the *Founder* of that *College*? And no other *Arms* were ever ſet upon their *Weather-Cock*.

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